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ANNUAL REPORT.

Upon the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the

BELFORD RURAL DISTRICT

For the year ending 31st. December, 1952.

STATISTICS.

1. Area	- 39,797 acres.
2. Registrar-General's estimate of the Resident Population (mid-year 1952)	- 5,022
3. Number of inhabited houses (end of 1952) according to Rate Books	- 1,877
4. Rateable Value	- £27,431
5. Sum represented by a penny rate	- £106

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total	M.	F.	Birth Rate 15.7 per 1000 of estimated resident population
<u>Live Births</u> (Legitimate)	74	35	39	}
(Illegitimate)	5	2	3	
	<u>79</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>42</u>	

<u>Still Births</u>	2	1	1	Death Rate 9.9 per 1000 of estimated resident population
<u>Deaths</u>	50	23	27	

England & Wales Birth Rate 15.3 per 1000 Death Rate 11.3 per 1000

<u>Deaths from Puerperal Causes</u>	- Nil.
<u>Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age</u>	- Total 1
All infants per 1000 live births	- Rate 12.6
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	- Rate 13.5
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births.	- Rate Nil.

<u>Deaths from Cancer (all ages)</u>	7.
<u>Deaths from measles (all ages)</u>	Nil.
<u>Deaths from whooping Cough (all ages)</u>	Nil.
<u>Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)</u>	Nil.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER OF THE AUTHORITY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH (part-time)
D.T. McDonald, M.D., Ch.B.(Edin),
South Bank, Belford.

SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR
W.R. Kirk, M.S.I.A.
Seabank, Seahouses.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The Council owned supplies to the townships of Belford, Seahouses and Beadnell and the private supply to Bamburgh were generally satisfactory throughout the year with the usual difficulty in getting over the period of peak demand in July and August.

The Belford water was considerably improved in quality by dispensing with the 'Red' spring and so cutting down the amount of ferrous matter in suspension. The deficiency was made up by regular pumping from the W.D. Borehole. Frequent scouring of the supply main was still required and the limestone chippings in the small contact tank also required regular cleansing.

The Seahouses supply showed a further improvement in the quality arriving at the Seahouses reservoir due to the completion of the descaling of the main from the Brockdam source. 15,100 yards of 4" and 4,950 of 3" (including main to Beadnell) were scraped seven 4" sluice valves, four 3" sluice valves and one 2" sluice valve were renewed all others were checked and cleaned at a total cost of 2/6.45d. per yard. Regular pumping from the borehole during the holiday season was necessary to meet the demand.

Additional sources of supply for the Beadnell system were investigated and a series of springs yielding 14,000 to 17,000 gallons per day were located. Arrangements are in hand for the addition of these springs to the main supply,

District Water Scheme - Stage I.

This was put out to tender and that of Messrs McLaren & Co. (Belford) Ltd. was accepted. Before this was approved by the Ministry the Council rescinded their approval of this Scheme and decided to abandon Stage I as such and to reconsider the whole matter in view of the effecting of considerable savings by a much modified scheme.

During the year three samples were taken for bacteriological examination from main supplies and were found to be pure.

Water is supplied from mains to houses in the following parishes:-

PARISH.	Piped into house.	By stand-pipe.	Total No. of houses.
North Sunderland.	420	70	490
Belford.	252	6	258
Beadnell.	138	19	157
Chathill.	16	-	16
Ellingham.	21	3	24
Fleetham.	11	5	16
Swinhoe.	6	12	18
Totals.	864	115	979

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Council's Consulting Engineer's were instructed last year to prepare a scheme for the Sewering of Beadnell Village. This was almost completed by the end of this year.

North Sunderland Sewerage,

The sewers draining the old village are part but jointed clay tiles and part culvert and both are defective. The western half discharges sewage untreated into the Annstead burn. The resulting pollution is aggravated by a sand bar across the outlet of the Burn to the beach.



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The Council instructed their Surveyor to prepare a scheme for resewering North Sunderland including the diversion of the outfall to the Annstead Burn into the sewer with sea outfall laid in 1938 across the Golf Course to the South of Seahouses.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The number of shops and other premises where food is sold or prepared within the District are as follows:-

Futchers	...	7
Bakers (with bakeries attached)	...	7
Grocers & General Dealers.	...	18
Greengrocers.	...	4
Confectioners.	...	3
Fishmongers.	...	1
do. (with vans only)	...	3
Fish & Chip shops.	...	3
Cafes.	...	5
Hotels.	...	17
Boarding Houses (5 or more beds)	...	6
Public Houses (excluding licensed hotels)	...	8

During the year the following items of food have been condemned:-

14 Stones Beef (home killed)
8 Stones Mutton (do.)
44 Tins of canned goods.
23 lbs. of bacon.
152 lbs. of canned ham.
20 lbs. of butter.
112 lbs. of dripping.

Again this year a regrettably large quantity of imported canned ham imported (mostly from Germany), was condemned as unfit, due to defective canning.

No slaughtering of animals for sale is carried on in the District.

Ice-Cream.

Manufacturer	Retailers	cold mix	...	1
do.	do.	heat treated	...	3
Retailer only	(pre-packed)		...	11

3 samples were taken to Newcastle distant 50 miles for testing. A refrigerated sample cabinet was not used.

Food Handling.

The standard of cleanliness in food shops and food handling premises has been on the whole good. In only one or two cases has it been necessary to give warnings.

Public Cleansing.

The Council's scavenging service is still restricted to the four main Villages of Belford, Bamburgh, Seahouses and Beadnell with the two small parishes of Bamburgh Castle and Monkhouse. With the new houses built since the service commenced in 1948 one vehicle is not sufficient to deal with the work without overtime. At present 1076 houses are scavenged, an increase of over 14% since the commencement of the service.

Rodent Control.

The joint employment of a Rodent Operator has continued to work satisfactorily This being the first year of full employment.

During the year 10 Council properties, 1605 dwelling houses, 97 Agricultural Holdings and 230 other premises were inspected: a total of 1942.

Treatments were carried out at 6 Council properties 204 dwelling houses (a free service), 25 Agricultural Holdings and 14 other business premises (charged for).

Public Conveniences.

A public convenience was erected at Belford with three W.C.'s and 1 wash-hand basin for Females, and 2 W.C.s and 11'0" of urinal stalls for males at a cost of £674.

An extension to the Seahouses Convenience to provide accommodation for an Attendant and three wash-hand basins was added to the Females section at a cost of £227.

At Bamburgh a contract for a public Convenience with 5 W.C.'s and 5 wash-hand basins for females, 2 W.C.'s and 24ft. of urinal stalls for males was placed for £1475. The erection had to be suspended owing to legal difficulties over the acquisition of the site.

HOUSING.

New houses completed during the Year.

By Local Authority	-	25 (Permanent)
By Private Enterprise	-	11 (do)
Number of defective houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action - 6½		
Number of houses permanently discontinued as dwelling houses - 9.		

Summary of work effected during the Year.

Privies and privy ashpits abolished		23.
Water closets provided		23.
Sanitary bins provided		27
Sanitary bins renewed.		15
New drains constructed		24
Drains repaired.		13
Scullery sinks provided		16
Yards repaired.		5.

PLANS.

74 plans were submitted for approval under the byelaws. These were examined and recommended for approval, all being approved.

56 Applications for planning consent were made. 52 were approved. and 4 refused. An appeal to the Minister in the case of a bungalow at Beadnell was successful.

Civil Building Licences.

Building licences in the sum of £19,708 were issued during the year for maintenance of houses including the conversion of two farm buildings to dwelling houses, the conversion of a house to two flats and the division of a house into two.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASE DURING 1952.

During the year 182 cases of Infectious Disease were notified:

Measles	... 93	Scarlet Fever	 4
Chickenpox	... 69	Pneumonia	 3
Whooping cough...	9	Tuberculosis	 3.
Polio-myelitis		... 1.	

Measles. occurred in epidemic form in April and May in the Bamburgh and Seahouses area, it spread to the Chathill and Ellingham districts in July and then to Newham and Lucker neighbourhoods in August and September. There were no deaths.

Chickenpox. appeared in Belford and district during February, March and April where children were the chief sufferers.

Whooping Cough occurred among children in Seahouses and Belford towards the end of the year.

One case of Polio-myelitis occurred in Bamburgh in September in a small boy. It was non-paralytic in nature and the boy rapidly made a complete recovery.

Mumps. was present in the Belford district during December.

